

# Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel & Christ's love with those in corrections since 1982  
I was in prison and you came to me Matt. 25:36cESV

## What do We Do While We Wait?



Waiting is hard. Noah waited for rain and then had to rebuild his entire life. Abraham waited for a son. Joseph waited from his birth for acceptance from his brothers, from the time he was 17 until he was reunited with his family and to be able to be with and provide for them. David waited from the time he was anointed to be King until he was and that was fraught with conflict. Daniel waited in captivity through at least three kings. The Messiah was promised thousands of years before Christ came. Israel waited for their savior and we wait for Christ's return.

Within the larger context of waiting here are examples of individuals who waited. The people waited for Zechariah wondering at his delay in the temple. (Luke 1) Simeon & Anna waited for the consolation and redemption of Israel (Luke 2)

What do we do while we are waiting? Many in Israel turned to other gods, Daniel served the kings while he was in captivity, was one who used the time to "learn (ed) from reading the Word of the LORD" (Daniel 9:2b). He pleaded with God in prayer and fasting, [repeating God's promises]... Praising Him as 'Great and awesome...confessing his, the peoples and the ancestor's sin ... shame ... disobedience ... and refusal to listen, and wickedness. He begged God to turn His anger away, to listen and for God's sake, to not delay but to provide mercy. The angel

While We Wait... cont. pg.2

December 31, 2019

## MEC Spotlight

Here is year end review and a sincere **thank you** for your prayers and support. As the years have gone by and the ministry has expanded it is always a blessing to add. This year although it is less than it has been in the past, it is good to rely to you what the LORD is still doing.

These are the counties we are currently still in.

- ◆ Anoka County
- ◆ Chisago County Jail (Not after the first of the year)
- ◆ Hennepin County Two or three facilities
- ◆ Hubbard County Jail
- ◆ Ramsey County One or two
- ◆ Scott County Jail
- ◆ Washington County Jail
- ◆ Polk Co Jail Wi.
- ◆ St. Croix County Jail Hudson Wi.

We **thank you** for helping provide these.

- ◆ 66 Church Services, Bible Studies, Individual Spiritual Counseling or Topical Outreach classes each week.
- ◆ Volunteers minister to around 530 individuals a week (some come to more than one service)
- ◆ For the 16 jails that we have volunteers in (around 200 volunteers)- In addition to the church Bible Studies Outreach Classes and reentry we try to provide a Bible and Daily Bread devotional for any inmates that want one. The Life Recovery Bibles are in great demand. Bible Donations should be marked specifically for those.
- ◆ Estimated 45 inmates met with in person for re-entry
- ◆ 85 written inmate requests undetermined number of phone calls from inmates and families responded to
- ◆ Around 190 Daily Breads per 3 months distributed with 210 Easter and 150 Christmas editions.



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## December Highlights

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Gabriel told him that ... in time... Jerusalem would be rebuilt under the anointed one ... despite perilous times.

The thoughts about waiting at the beginning of this article were taken from a message Janet Collage presented at New Harmony Care Center. She read a poem which was revised from the Night Before Christmas about us waiting for the LORD to return and started out the night before Jesus came. It presented the idea of someone who was not ready for His return because he and his family neglected to spend time in prayer and cultivating the relationship with God. The TV and other activities and relationships kept them from pursuing this and when the LORD returned At the point in the poem about Santa appearing, the line about Jesus coming went like this.

“Out of the East there arose such a clatter ...and When what to my wondering eyes should appear, but angels proclaiming that Jesus was here... With a light like the sun sending forth such a bright ray I knew in a moment this must be the Day!

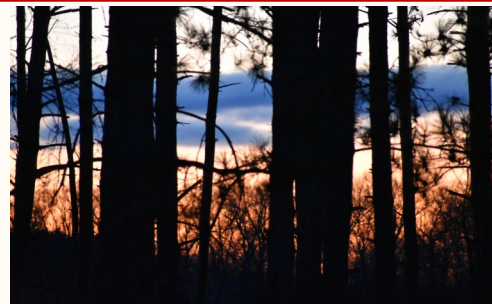
I would like to see a poem written of one who is ready for Him!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we anticipate Christ's return, I know it is the grace and love and mercy of Christ that makes us ready for His return. Whether it is that we go to meet Him because our individual time has come or because He has returned for us all, I hope that we can take this to heart.

May we make our New Year one that will help us be ready for the day we meet Him.



- ◆ Re-entry inmates in Chisago County and earlier in the year Anoka County



- received a Reentry booklet which we purchase from Prison Fellowship and a 12 Seeds Relationship book and workbook by Norm Anderson which the Christian Foundation supplies finances for.
- ◆ Monthly e-mail newsletter includes devotional/inspirational piece and true-life story.
- ◆ Prayer/Intercession letter sent every 10 days with from 120-300 requests from inmate and volunteer requests.
- ◆ More than 300 Bibles given out this year – We got so busy getting them out we did not keep track of the number. Thank you to IBG and to the churches and individuals that donated for them!!
- ◆ New volunteer orientations take place following application, interview and reference checks. They are held every other month with the placement and training that the county does usually following that.
- ◆ MEC fall event which is available in an audio CD It features The Born Again Brain by Dr. Tim Walsh and 4 wonderful testimonies from ex-inmates and volunteers.

We know we are not alone in Ministry and so each month we do a shout-out to others

This month our Ministry Friend Shout Out is to:

The Salvation Army's mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. It is an international mission with branches in the twin cities. Salvation Army provides churches, chaplains, rehabilitation programs, thrift stores and other services. Their magazine is **the War Cry** [WWW.THEWARCRY.ORG](http://WWW.THEWARCRY.ORG)



**Joshua Garrison's testimony is in the June issue Josh is a wonderful father and husband who loves the LORD and works for Him by serving men at the Salvation Army.**

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